

## Claims

What is claimed is:

- 1           1. An apparatus for applying a substance to a human body comprising:  
2                 a hearing device; and  
3                 the substance provided at a surface of said device.
  
- 1           2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the substance is incorporated into a shell of the  
2     hearing device.
  
- 1           3. The apparatus of claim 2 wherein said substance exhibits controlled migration through  
2     said shell and to the surface of the shell.
  
- 1           4. The apparatus of claim 3 wherein said substance is at least one of antibioticly active  
2     and an antimicrobial agent.
  
- 1           5. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the surface is roughened.
  
- 1           6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the substance is a film disposed in interstices of the  
2     surface.
  
- 1           7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the substance is structured.
  
- 1           8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the substance is a film disposed in interstices of the  
2     surface.

- 1           9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the substance is a micro-structured.
- 1           10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the substance is a film disposed in interstices of the  
2 surface.
- 1           11. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the surface is porous.
- 1           12. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the substance is disposed in pores of the surface.
- 1           13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the substance is disposed in the pores so as to be  
2 slowly dispatched therefrom.
- 1           14. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the substance is a gel.
- 1           15. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the substance is a liquid.
- 1           16. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the substance is a paste.
- 1           17. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the substance is antibioticly active.
- 1           18. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the substance is an antimicrobial agent.
- 1           19. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the substance is a film.

1           20. A method of applying a substance to a human body comprising the steps of:  
2                   providing an outer surface of a hearing device with said substance; and  
3                   applying said hearing device to an individual.

1           21. The method of claim 1 wherein the surface is roughened, structured, or micro-  
structured and further comprising the step of applying the substance into interstices of the surface..

1           22. The method of claim 20 further comprising the step of incorporating the substance into  
2 a shell of the hearing device.

1           23. The method of claim 22 wherein said substance exhibits controlled migration through  
2 said shell and to the surface of the shell.

1           24. The method of claim 23 wherein said substance is at least one of antibioticly active  
2 and an antimicrobial agent.